



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release September 25, 1989 William MacDougall 202-343-5634

### NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS PROJECT INITIATED UNDER NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced today the opening of a major new wetlands enhancement effort in North Dakota.

The Chase Lake Project near Medina, North Dakota, will be dedicated September 26. The area is prime habitat for waterfowl and other species such as shorebirds, pelicans, and cranes. Enhancing those wetlands is an important part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a major public/private partnership initiated by the United States and Canada in 1986.

"We're beginning to see a real payoff from these cooperative projects to protect wetlands," said Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan. "They prove that the North American Plan is making a positive contribution to the continent's environmental welfare after only a year in full operation. They also reflect President Bush's determination to conserve and enhance America's wetlands."

The plan is an unprecedented joint effort by the Governments of the United States and Canada, states and provinces, and private conservation groups to reverse the destruction of wetlands and rebuild declining populations of waterfowl. The goal is to raise \$1.5 billion from private and public sources to save or improve 6 million acres of wetlands by the year 2000.

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U.S. Federal participation in the effort is headed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The key to the plan is partnership," explained John F. Turner, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "What will make it work is the combined efforts of so many people and organizations on an international scale."

In the United States, more than half of the estimated 215 million acres of wetlands existing at the time of European colonization have been destroyed. Wetlands are essential for breeding birds and other wildlife, flood control, and cleansing of water supplies.

At Chase Lake, the project will be undertaken in three tiers. Efforts will be concentrated in the first 3 years on the 39-square-mile Centennial Conservation Area and a core area of 335 square miles. The project potentially could encompass 8,600 square miles as wetlands enhancement techniques are refined and additional funds become available.

Other major new wetland conservation projects under the North American Plan are under way in Arkansas, California, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.



FISH &amp; WILDLIFE

# Facts

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## NEW PROJECTS UNDER THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

**ARKANSAS.** The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Ducks Unlimited, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have jointly paid \$420,000 for the acquisition and development of up to 600 acres of bottomland hardwoods along the Cache and lower White Rivers in Arkansas. The project will particularly benefit endangered species and wintering waterfowl.

**CALIFORNIA.** Chico--Demonstration projects of about 1,200 acres each are planned in the Butte, Colusa, American, and Sutter River Basins and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The Central Valley Joint Venture plans to enhance wildlife habitat on more than 400,000 acres of private agricultural lands. In the Butte basin, the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture is planning an agriculture incentive program around a new publicly owned wildlife area. The California Department of Fish and Game has bought 3,736 acres to be managed as the Upper Butte Sink Unit of the Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area.

Colusa County--The National Audubon Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided more than \$1 million for acquisition and restoration of 550 acres of wetlands from the Behring Ranch for a wildlife sanctuary between Butte Creek and the Sacramento River. This project was provided by the California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Sacramento--The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the California Waterfowl Association, with additional private donors, provided nearly \$400,000 in research on mallard populations and wintering habitat management and programs to work with landowners to develop and protect wetland-upland complexes. About 22,000 private acres are being improved as part of outreach efforts.

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FWS- F-062

For further information, contact:

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Please refer to FWS-F-062 when making inquiries.

Sacramento County--The Nature Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and Anheuser-Busch Corporation have provided start-up funds exceeding \$300,000 to acquire over 3,000 acres of wetland-valley oak forest-agricultural preserve on the Cosumnes River between Sacramento and Stockton. The project to expand the oak forest and transform wetlands will cost more than \$7.5 million.

IOWA. Meredith Marsh, Forest City--In the 1940's, a vast wetland known as Mud Lake was drained. Now Iowans intend to restore some of those lost wetlands as part of a 35-county restoration strategy. The 320-acre project will restore 120 acres of wetlands and seed remaining uplands for nesting cover. The \$210,000 undertaking is a cooperative effort among state and Federal agencies, private conservation groups, corporate sponsors, and citizens across the state.

ILLINOIS. Cache River Basin--The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Illinois Department of Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have funded the acquisition and development of 1,800 acres of the Cache River wetlands and hardwood bottomlands for waterfowl and threatened and endangered species.

Jackson County--The Illinois Department of Conservation and The Nature Conservancy have purchased a 160-acre tract of wetlands at Campbell Pond.

LOUISIANA. Shreveport--The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have provided \$300,000 to acquire 752 acres of forested wetlands in Bayou Bodcau.

MAINE. Augusta--Local, regional, and national conservation groups and land trusts have joined with state agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to form the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition. Its goal: to protect 80,000 acres of wetlands and upland buffers and enhance another 50,000 acres of existing wetlands.

MISSOURI. Mississippi County--The Missouri Department of Conservation has started a 1,600-acre project at the Ten Mile Pond Wildlife Management Area.

NEW JERSEY. Cape May--The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy dedicated acquisition of the first parcel of the 15,000-acre Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. The Nature Conservancy has pledged to raise \$400,000 to match a \$100,000 challenge grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to acquire additional refuge lands. The New Jersey Division of

Fish, Game, and Wildlife plans to protect an additional 4,600 acres of wetlands linking the state's Dennis Creek wildlife management area with the refuge.

**NORTH DAKOTA.** Chase Lake Prairie Project, Medina--The North Dakota Action Group announced plans for a 5.5-million-acre wildlife and conservation enhancement project in the rolling hills and wetlands of south central North Dakota. Funding is estimated at \$20 million through 1994 and will come from private conservation groups, state and Federal agencies, corporate sponsors, and sportsmen's clubs.

**OHIO.** Toledo--The Ohio Division of Wildlife is leading an effort to protect 5,200 acres of freshwater coastal marshes and estuaries along Lake Erie. The Division is also seeking to create 1,300 acres of wetlands and enhance an additional 2,600 acres of state-owned waterfowl habitat.

**OKLAHOMA.** Tulsa--The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Ducks Unlimited provided \$46,000 to develop a moist-soil wetland in the Keystone State Wildlife Management Area.

**RHODE ISLAND.** Little Compton--The State of Rhode Island, the Town of Little Compton, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have funded state acquisition of over 105 acres toward a goal of 206 acres at Briggs Marsh, one of Rhode Island's best coastal ponds for waterfowl production.

**SOUTH CAROLINA.** Charleston--The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department is leading an effort to protect 90,000 acres in the A.C.E. Basin (the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers), the last major undeveloped coastal wetland complex in the state. The Nature Conservancy obtained an easement protecting 5,200 acres and acquired title to two islands.

**SOUTH DAKOTA.** DeSmet--Lake Thompson, a 506-square-mile watershed, is being expanded and improved as prime waterfowl habitat.

Deuel County--Ducks Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Anheuser-Busch Corporation, and The Nature Conservancy have provided about \$800,000 in initial financing to acquire and restore 1,960 acres of prime prairie-pothole breeding habitat as part of a larger effort to assemble 6,000 acres adjoining state and Federal refuges.

Kingsbury County--The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission; and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided \$750,000 to start restoring 10,000 acres of wetlands and 30,000 acres of upland cover and encourage sound agricultural practices for waterfowl production in a high-priority site.

**TENNESSEE.** Dyersburg--Ducks Unlimited and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency acquired and developed the 682-acre Lake Lauderdale Refuge in West Tennessee.

**TEXAS.** Anderson County--A 153-acre green tree reservoir was built by Ducks Unlimited and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on the Engeling Wildlife Management Area.